

Listing of Claims

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1. (Currently amended) A fastening tool for fastening an object to a substrate, said tool comprising:

a housing;

a driver mounted in said housing for reciprocal movement in a drive path;

an actuator for actuating said driver;

a magazine assembly associated with said housing, said magazine assembly containing one or more uniformly coated fasteners forming a unitary structure including a forwardmost fastener, said magazine assembly having a nose end and a tail end spaced from said nose end;

a pusher in said magazine assembly for urging said plurality of fasteners towards said nose end such that said forwardmost fastener is aligned in said drive path.

2. (Original) The fastening tool of claim 1, wherein said coating on said fasteners is electrically insulating.

3. (Original) The fastening tool of claim 1, wherein said coating on said fasteners has cushioning properties.

4. (Original) The fastening tool of claim 1, wherein said one or more fasteners are staples.

5. (Original) The fastening tool of claim 1, wherein said coating is selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutylene, PVC, CPVC, ABS and PVDF.

6. (Original) The fastening tool of claim 1, wherein said coating is nylon.

7. (Original) The fastening tool of claim 1, wherein said magazine assembly is detachably secured to said housing.

8. (Original) An insulated staple for securing a wire to a substrate, comprising:

a bight portion;

a pair of legs extending from said bight portion, each leg terminating in a free end; and

a dielectric coating uniformly coated on said bight portion and said pair of legs, said coating adhering to said bight portion and pair of legs so as to form an integral unitary structure.

9. (Currently amended) The insulated staple of claim 7_8, wherein said coating remains stationary on said staple.

10. (Currently amended) The insulated staple of claim 7_8, wherein said coating has a thickness of from about 0.001 inches to about 0.050 inches.

11. (Currently amended) The insulated staple of claim 7_8, wherein said staple is made of bright or galvanized steel.

12. (Currently amended) The insulated staple of claim 7_8, wherein each said free end terminates in an angled cut to facilitate penetration into said substrate.

13. (Currently amended) A method of fastening an article to a substrate, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a fastening tool comprising:

a housing;

a driver mounted in said housing for reciprocal movement in a drive path;

a magazine assembly associated with said housing, said magazine assembly containing one or more uniformly coated fasteners forming a unitary structure, including a forwardmost coated

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fastener, said magazine assembly having a nose end and a tail end spaced from said nose end; and

b) properly positioning said fastening tool about said article to be fastened; and

c) actuating said driver thereby causing said driver to strike said forwardmost coated fastener and propel said forwardmost coated fastener out of said housing and into said substrate ab
